



## Coroners Bills

1752-1796

### Buttermere

County coroners were introduced in England in around 1194 once established other boroughs and liberties sought the right to have their own coroner. Often in Medieval times the coroner also assumed the role of the sheriff and his duties weren't limited to holding inquests on dead bodies although almost a full time post they were unpaid for the duties apart from those that were deemed murder of manslaughter when they would receive 13s. 4d. From the 24th June 1752 a law was passed allowing the coroner to claim £1 for every inquest they attended not held in a gaol and also to claim 9d per mile travel allowance from the place of residence. Inquests held in any gaol were performed at a rate totalling no more than £1. These costs were to be paid from the county rates. In cases of homicide the coroner also received the former fee of 13s. 4d. The coroners submitted their bills at the quarter session sittings for approval.

Year	Date	Surname	Given Names	Coroner		Details of Inquest	Place of Inquest	No. of Miles Travelled	Coroners Bill			Notes
				Surname	Given Names				£	s	d	
1768	09-Feb	Blundy	John	Clare	John	Found Dead in a field; No marks of violence; Sudden natural death	Buttermere	28	1	1	0	
1783	21-Jun	Cram	Unnamed Infant	Clare	William	Several parts of the body of a new-born infant, only the head of which was found at first by a dog, afterwards a hand in a wood at a considerable	Buttermere	28	2	1	0	

						distance. It was judged necessary before the inquiry to the view the places where the parts were found and the residences of the supposed mother, who had absconded, and the supposed father, all of which being at a considerable distance and it was getting late, the inquest was adjourned to the next dat.						
1783	22-Jun					In the night the woman, Sarah Cram, got from a very high window and fled a second time and escaped the most diligent and almost immediate search; but it being very probable she must soon be retaken, it appeared necessary to adjourn again and secure the father, Scammell, for further examination.			4	0	0	Cost for 2 adjournments
1783	23-Jun					On the adjourned day, the inquest sat a great many hours, taking a great number of depositions and making a very full and long examination of Cram, wherein she charged Scammell with taking the child from her immediately after delivery in a wood; Murder to both.						At Salisbury Assizes 2nd August 1873, Sarah was acquitted of murdering a male bastard child on both the indictment and the inquest and the case against John Scammell, Jnr., similarly charged on the inquest, was not prosecuted. Sarah was convicted of breaking and entering William Newport's

